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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

WILLIAM WELD, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL PUBLISHED IN THE DOMINION.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the 1st of each month. It is impartial and independent of all classes or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

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Our Monthly Prize Essays.

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION.

- 1.—No award will be made unless one essay at least comes up to the standard for publication.
- 2.—The essays will be judged by the ideas, arguments, conciseness and conformity with the subject, and not by the grammar, punctuation or spelling, our object being to encourage farmers who have enjoyed few educational advantages.
- 3.—Should one or more essays, in addition to the one receiving the first prize, present a different view of the question, a second prize will be awarded, but the payment will be in agricultural books. First prize essayists may choose books or money, or part of both. Selections of books from our advertised list must be sent in not later than the 15th of the month in which the essays appear. Second prize essayists may order books for any amount not exceeding \$3.00, but no balance will be remitted in cash. When first prize essayists mention nothing about books, we will remit the money.

Our prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on *Country Life*, has been awarded to Blanche Aylmer, Melbourne, Que. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Fall Work on the Farm*. Essays to be handed in not later than Aug. 15.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on the following subject: *Can a Provincial Exhibition, purely Agricultural, be made Successful and Self-supporting?* Essays to be handed in not later than Sept. 15.

Subscription.

Subscribers, please notice the label on your paper, and if you have not paid your subscription for 1887, do not fail to do so at once. If the date on your label is Jan., '87, your subscription is only paid to the end of '86.

Editorial.

On the Wing.

DOMINION DAY.

The 1st of July being a national holiday, in commemoration of Confederation, we preferred a drive in the country—a walk and talk with farmers in the fields, among the stock and grain, in the orchards and gardens, and among the ladies and children—rather than seeing some horses or men killed, or witnessing the betting allurements of the race-course, with its dust and heat. We drove through three townships, inspecting the crops in the varied soils, from the heavy clay to the light and almost drifting sand, and the rich river flat lands. Canada never appeared so rich and grand to us before. On the light lands that we formerly thought but little of, the winter wheat was the most luxuriant we had ever seen. On the clay grounds some of it was as good as could be desired, and part was a little patchy. The spring crops looked most promising, the pastures were abundant, and the hay crop good. The orchards were laden with fruit. It appeared to us that our apple crop on an average will nearly or quite double the crop taken from the orchards we have seen in Europe. This year the peaches, which are not a sure crop in this country, promise such a crop as has not been seen for fifteen years. The grape vines are well laden; the pears, plums and cherries far exceed our average crop. The small fruits, currants, gooseberries, strawberries and raspberries, were all good, and what is most remarkable, all the last mentioned fruits were partaken of by us in a ripe state from the gardens of the farmers on this day, the strawberry crop not being quite finished, and the others just ripe. This is unusual, to have all our small fruits ripe on the 1st of July, but this year we have had no frost to destroy or keep the crop late since the ice left us in the spring, which is unusual, almost unprecedented. What also makes this trip remarkable was the fact that all the crops are now on the ground. Very little hay had been cut, and the wheat in some places had already turned yellow and was nearly ready to cut.

A few of the farmers were commencing their haying. Some were taking their families on a visit to their friends; some of the farmers' sons and daughters were seen at base ball, cricket or lawn tennis. All appeared happy, all satisfied with their crops, all prospering. We called at one farm that was mortgaged, but it had been mortgaged to purchase the adjoining farm, and would easily pay it. We doubt if in any other part of the world such a sight could be seen, and such a contrast to the

first sight we had of this locality 45 years ago. Then log shanties and corduroy roads prevailed, or no roads were visible, with small clearings and stumps in every field. Now we drive along the gravel roads and see the fine large barns and substantial houses; we see those ox-team farmers now driving their families about in stately carriages, the old codger's daughter now fitting from the garden to the piano. These are now the farmers of Canada—no rents, no tithes, no poor rates, no toll gates, no market fees; no pestilence or famine has ever been dreamt of, no disease has ever swept your stock or your market from you. Farmers, we say, stay right where you are; do not be led away by clap-trap orators; try to keep down expenses. You are now better off than any farmers in the world; no failures, no bankrupts are heard of among you. Beware of those who are advocating increased taxation; they are sharpening their knives to cut your farms from you or your children. Be thankful for your Dominion Day, your Jubilee crops. Do your duty, seek light and truth, and by your example discourage those who are known to be deceivers. Unite for good, and rejoice in this year of peace and prosperity.

"With hearts resolved and hands prepared
The blessings you enjoy to guard."

Commercial Union.

As the only independent agricultural publication in Canada, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE will furnish in a concise form the most important points for and against this question, to enable our readers to form correct opinions about this subject, which has agitated the minds of many during the past few months. We deem this to be necessary, as we have promised to publish the proceedings of the Dominion Farmers' Council. In this critical task we hope to throw much light on this subject, so as to enable farmers to get a correct insight of all sides of the question, as it appears to be capable of as many views as a kaleidoscope. Although up to the present time we may not have been able to see the advantages that some may see in commercial union, we are not unconvertible, and at the conclusion of the discussions we hope we may be found with those who desire to do most good for the agriculturist. We find at the present time a vast diversity of opinion among our subscribers. Some contend that commercial union will be the best thing for the farmers that ever happened—in fact, the only salvation for them; others say it is the greatest humbug and fraud that has ever been agitated in the country.

We trust all who may take advantage of our offer to allow a limited portion of our columns to be devoted to this subject, will confine their remarks to facts, and avoid repetitions of what has appeared before in the ADVOCATE.